



MONDAY MEMO

April 22, 2019

*Legacy VAPA High School: Preparing Students for Life
Through the Arts.*

create. inspire. unify. educate.



Dr. Edward Trimis, Principal

Principal's Update

This is the time. Mile 22 in a marathon, 4.2 miles to go. It takes incredible focus to stay on track, keep up your speed, and push forward, with all your will. We have completed the lion share of SBAC Tests, the first school-based SAT, Spring Musical, and all of our late-start PD Days. Some of you have completed a good number of Seven Habits lessons as we complete Year 2 of being a *Leader in Me School*, on our way to being a *lighthouse school*, pioneering and piloting the high school model. Our tentative course matrix has been finalized and has been posted. The bulk of formal evaluations have been completed. We completed one cycle of Instructional Rounds/Classroom Visits, with over a hundred informal classroom observations by our admin. team. We successfully completed our Mid-Term WASC Visit as we start to prepare a strategic plan and integrate it with our *WASC Action Plan* and *School Plan for Student Achievement*. As a school community, we managed a job action which was difficult for all, but were able to emerge as a staff and family stronger and more unified than ever. And the year's not over. We have seven weeks (35 school days) until the end of the school year and summer. Two weeks until AP Exams. Three weeks until Spring Fest begins (5/10). Two weeks until final evaluation meetings are held. Four weeks until Grad Night. Five weeks until Prom. Six weeks until Senior Awards and Recital. Seven weeks until Graduation. And then, after 6 days, Summer School begins June 19. And then Year 8 of the Legacy VAPA story unfolds as we have three years to realize "VAPA 22" our 10 year anniversary year, our full WASC Visit, and full implementation of our Strategic Plan.

As we continue our work the next seven weeks, please keep a few things in mind. The basic work we do at our school and in our classrooms must move forward as routine as possible while implement school and district programs with fidelity, providing the best we can to ensure our students master content standards, pass our classes, and graduate on time. Basics: please sign in and out on time, maintain grading practices in Schoology, assigning a grade per week per student, participate in Open House on May 2, submit grades on time.

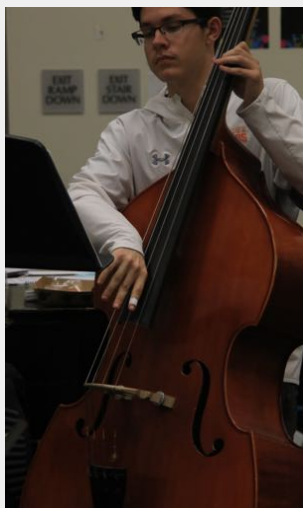
A few more reminders/requests: please plan on attending the paid *Leader in Me* PD on Saturday, May 4, 8:30-3:30 (registration 8-8:30). Please support our students by attending their home athletic events whenever possible. The students appreciate you being there and we have VAPA students on most of our Legacy teams. Please attend our evening performances. The students spend months preparing for their shows/concerts and it means the world to them if their teachers attend. This means much more to them than attending a day performance or a town hall with your class. I can count the number of teachers and staff that attended one of the four Spring Musical performances of *Little Shop of Horrors* on one hand. Upcoming events which you have the opportunity to attend are Spring Fest Music (5/10), Spring Fest: Mariachi Fest (5/16), Spring Fest: Film Fest (5/17), Spring Fest Dance (5/23 and 5/24), and Senior Recital (5/30).











New Banners To Be Raised at VAPA. Photography by Mr. Turner.

Assistant Principal's Update

From the Desk of Ms. Grinner, Assistant Principal



Ms. Terri Grinner, Assistant Principal

Open House and Students Out of Class

Hello awesome VAPA Staff! Please remember our Open House is May 2nd. Though the event starts at 5 pm, teachers are expected to be in their classrooms from

5:45-7:45 pm. While we have invited prospective and new students, this is a regular Open House for current VAPA families. Per the LAUSD/UTLA Collective Bargaining Agreement, all teachers must participate.

Another reminder. We have had large numbers of students out of class without passes. Some students say they are given permission to leave class and others admit left class without permission. It's a mix. In one case, Dr. Trimis followed three students, saw them tagging on the building, followed them into the class where they ran out of and the teacher said they were given permission to use the restroom at the start of the period and never returned. One of the other students just walked out of class. The same group of students have allegedly tagged in the hallways and in the MPR but were not caught with enough evidence. It is common to see 4 students returning BIC coolers to the cafeteria. There are frequently groups in the quad, on any one period sometimes 2-3 groups of students working on projects for different classes, which, in and of itself is not bad, except they rarely have passes from their teachers and when there are multiple groups added to film crews from video or photography classes or yearbook, added to several students out of class without permission, you can see why we often get complaints from ISLC and STEAM about VAPA students out of class. So, in summary, 1) please do not let students out of class unless necessary, 2) please always give students a pass if you allow them to leave class and never the first or last 10 minutes of class, 3) if you must send a student out of

class on an errand, please do not send groups of students.

The 15-week Grade Window is now open! 15-Week Grades are due on Monday, April 29th no later than 4pm in the VAPA Office. Grades must be submitted in MISIS and Teacher Verification of Rosters must be reviewed and signed by 4pm on 4/29. Please ensure that there is a letter, work habits, and cooperation grade submitted for every student in all classes. Please do not forget service students!!! Reminder: Students that may receive a "Fail" for the Spring Semester must get notification on the 15-week grade report that he or she is in danger of failing! Please work with students to ensure that they know where they are to best support them in passing your classes. Thank you for all that you do to support our VAPA students!

The 2019-2020 Matrix is posted near the teacher mailboxes. Teacher assignments will be issued no later than May 17, 2019.



Education Research

Not Making Unreasonable Behavioral Demands of Students

"Children aren't just smaller versions of adults," says Arkansas teacher Justin Minkel in this article in Education Week Teacher. "They are their own kind of being. They need to move, talk, question, and explore more than we do, because they're in the midst of that mind-boggling explosion of cognitive, physical, and social-emotional growth that marks childhood in our species." Because of this, he believes there are four things teachers should not ask students to do:

- Silent passing – Some schools have a no-talking rule when students walk through the hallways, ostensibly to avoid disturbing work in other classrooms. But students may wonder why it's okay for teachers to chat with colleagues as they walk around the school, and may have noticed that what's truly distracting is teachers loudly reprimanding students outside classrooms.
- Sitting still for a long time – Teachers who shadow students for a day are often struck by how uncomfortable, even exhausting, it is to be sedentary for an entire class period. It's even worse when students are listening passively to "teacher talk." Minkel suggests a guideline for the length of teachers' lectures: students' age – that is, five minutes for kindergarten, 15 minutes for high-school sophomores. In addition, students need to get up and move, which can take the form of

organized movement breaks [see the following article] or class rules that allow students to get up to sharpen a pencil or get a book.

- Forced apologies – “I’ve definitely been guilty of this one,” says Minkel, but he’s come to realize that when an angry child is told to say, “I’m sorry,” the apology isn’t sincere and won’t be received as such. “Turbulent emotions take a long time to settle,” he says. “We need to give kids time.”

- Zero tolerance for forgetfulness – Adults forget as well, says Minkel, and we need to take a deep breath and cut students some slack.

“4 Things Teachers Shouldn’t Be Asking Their Students to Do” by Justin Minkel in Education Week Teacher, April 8, 2019, <https://bit.ly/2ZafCEO>





Little Shop of Horrors

Congratulations to the cast and crew of Little Shop of Horrors, the Legacy Visual and Performing Arts 2019 Spring Musical, which closed last night at the Legacy Performing Arts Center. Special thanks to all of our families, friends, and supporters; to Kevin Patterson (Musical Director), Juan Cuevas (Assistant Musical Director), Miguel Delgado (Technical Director), and Stacey Craig (Director). Thanks also to our student leaders, Sahira Romero (Student Director, VAPA, '19) and

Ashley Arambula (Stage Manager, VAPA, '19). We're super proud of the work our theatre department is doing!

Online Playbill may be found at <https://bit.ly/2uSp2qE>.

More photos available at

<https://legacyvapa.smugmug.com/Theatre-Musicals/Little-Shop-of-Horrors-/Little-Shop-of-Horrors-/>



Recent Legacy VAPA Ads

Enrollment Drive Continues

By now, everyone should know that enrollment numbers drive us. With more students, comes more funding, more flexibility, more course offerings, and more opportunities for interventions. The flip side of this is that numbers are not everything. We really need students enrolled at VAPA who want to be VAPA students. Students who are proficient in one or more art forms, or, at least, want to be (we love eager beginners). We continue to struggle with Zone of Choice placing students with us who do not want to be VAPA students. We continue to explore ways to open our doors to new students in and outside the Zones of Choice to increase our enrollment with students who align with our mission and goals including adding a Magnet, becoming an Affiliated Charter, and adding a School for Advanced Studies. One of the main problems with each of these models, is they take time to get approved and start. Once we have a school board member, I plan to schedule a meeting and discuss strategy. Our E-Cast Enrollment Prediction was 410, 60 less than our current enrollment and 135 less than our capacity. We need those 135 students.





Spring Tour, 2019 Legacy VAPA

VAPA Musical Ensembles Tour San Diego

Congratulations, Legacy Visual and Performing Arts High School Jazz Ensemble, *Aurora* Showchoir, and *Girl Talk* Jazz Singers returning Monday evening from a 4-day concert tour to San Diego. The groups performed in a Music in the Parks Festival in Placentia, at the Oceanside Jazz Festival at Mira Costa College, and at Rady Childrens Hospital/Ronald McDonald House in San Diego. Other highlight of the trip included a visit to the world famous San Diego Zoo, a behind-the-scenes tour of La Jolla Playhouse, and a campus tour of UC San Diego. The group included 30 students, three chaperones, and three directors. Thank you so much to our hosts in San Diego including staff from Music in the Parks, Mira Costa College, Ronald McDonald House, the La Jolla Playhouse, and UC San Diego, and Maureen Roadman. A huge thank you to our parent chaperones, Ms. Rios, Mr. Zarate, and Ms. Ortiz, to our directors, Mr.

Cuevas, and Mr. Olvera. And thank you to our wonderful students who exhibited model behavior and dedication to their art as they navigated through several concerts and events over the 4 days. As we continue to develop our programs at Legacy VAPA, continuing our efforts to grow into one of the top high school arts schools in the nation among the likes of LACHSA and OCSA, we will be providing these kinds of opportunities to our students on a regular basis. More photos at <https://bit.ly/2KIdz7J>

CALENDAR: April 26 Pep Rally (9:30 am), April 27 Spring Dance, May 2 Open House, May 4 Leader in Me Training, May 6-17 SP Exams, May 18 Grad Night, May 10-24 Spring Fest (5 nights), May 26 Senior Prom, May 30 Senior Recital and Awards Gala, June 6 Graduation, June 10 Pupil-Free Day, June 11 PD Day, June 12-18 Arts Intensives, June 19-July 24 Summer School/Summer Bridge/Escalante Math, July 29-Aug. 2 Summer Arts Camps (K-8), Aug. 5-9 Dead Week/**Planning Week**/Admin.Team/Leader in Me LEAD Teams/WASC Action Team/Strategic Planning Team, Aug. 12-14 Showchoir Workshop, Aug. 12-16 Band/Color Guard Camp, Aug. 15 Freshman Orientation (led by Link Crew), Aug. 19 Pupil-Free Day, Aug. 20 First Day of Instruction.

Monday Memo is written and published by Legacy Visual and Performing Arts High School. For more information, e-mail Dr. Trimis at etrimis@lausd.net. www.vapalegacy.com Legacy VAPA High School: *Preparing for Life Through the Arts.* create. inspire. unify. educate.